

## **IRENE POLLIN, M.S.W.**

**Term: 2006**

Irene Pollin, MSW, is a noted health care professional with over 28 years of experience in the field. In 1976, she created the first Medical Crisis Counseling Center developed to treat patients and families coping with chronic illness. Since then she has established Medical Crisis Counseling Centers at Washington Hospital Center and at other community facilities. Mrs. Pollin has also forged a dynamic reputation at Harvard University as a psychiatric social worker and lecturer in the department of psychiatry. As president and founder of the Linda and Kenneth Pollin Foundation, she serves on a number of national advisory boards and commissions in the field of mental health and women's health. In 1999 she founded the Sister to Sister – Everyone has a Heart<sup>SM</sup> Foundation, Inc., an organization whose aim is to increase women's awareness of heart disease and to provide free cardiac screenings. Mrs. Pollin serves as the foundation's president.

Mrs. Pollin has published numerous articles and is the author of two books, *Medical Crisis Counseling-Short Term Therapy for Long-term Illness* and *Taking Charge-Overcoming the Challenges of Long-Term Illness*.

Mrs. Pollin has served on the boards of organizations such as the American Cancer Society, Smithsonian Institution, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, National Kidney Foundation, Multiple Sclerosis Society, Society for Women's Health Research, National Cancer Institute Advisory Board, National Rehabilitation Hospital, the National Institute of Mental Health, the National Institutes of Health Foundation at NIH, the Office of Women's Health and the Advisory Council for NIH.

Irene Pollin, a native of St. Louis received her bachelor's Degree from American University, and then earned a Master's Degree in Social Work from Catholic University.

Most recently, Abe and Irene Pollin established the Pollin Prize for Pediatric Research at New York Presbyterian Hospital. The Pollin Prize was awarded November 15, 2002 to four international scientists for their work in oral rehydration therapy, hailed as the most important medical discovery of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Mrs. Pollin also serves on the Columbia-Presbyterian Health Sciences Advisory Council and participates in the Women's Health Advisory Committee.